

The Appointment process for the next Bishop of Warrington

As you now know, Bishop Bev has resigned from her post as Bishop of Warrington which takes effect from 30th September. This means that we now initiate the process of appointing a new bishop to this See, as agreed by the Dioceses Commission in the submission made to them re. the appointment of an Interim Bishop of Liverpool.

Archbishop Stephen and I had a conversation about the appointment last week, in which he reiterated his support for the process to begin immediately under my leadership. The reason for this is that as a diocese we have been effectively without a suffragan bishop for the past two years. I am conscious that the process for the Vacancy in See is also beginning to come into effect at this time but rather than delay, the appointment now of +Warrington enables the continuity of effective episcopal leadership for the diocese at a vital point in its strategic mission and ministry.

Consultation has also taken place with Stephen Knott and Helen Averill of the Archbishops' Advisers for Appointments and Vocations team, and we are now at the point of agreeing a possible timetable for the process. (See below)

The first step is for us to agree that we require a bishop of Warrington, to agree the process as outlined, and to prepare a submission to the national Dioceses' Commission who make the decision that a diocese can proceed to appointment.

ACTION: The Bishop's Council, on behalf of the Diocesan Synod, to agree that we require a bishop of Warrington and that we initiate the process according to the timetable as outlined.

Possible Dates	Activity	Comments
18 Sept – 18 Oct	Preparation of the submission to the Dioceses' Commission	This period needs to include: Consultation over the role of +Warrington Formation of an advisory panel for the appointment process
Latest w/c 20 Oct 2025	Dioceses Commission meets	The Dioceses' Commission has agreed that they will consider this submission prior to their next scheduled meeting in December
w/c 3 Nov 2025	Candidate pack to AAAY	
14 Nov 2025	Vacancy Announcement in Church Times	
14 Dec 2025	Deadline for EOIs	Expressions of interest are invited from those who have gone through episcopal exploration as well as those who may not have as yet
w/c 15 Dec 2025	Longlisting	+Ruth to consult with the Archbishop and AAAY

w/c 15 Dec 2025	Papers to panel	If longlisting has taken place early enough in the week but definitely the following week if not.
w/c 5 Jan 2026	Shortlisting Meeting	The Advisory panel with +Ruth to shortlist
w/c 2 Feb 2026	Interviews	+Ruth and Advisory panel
30 or 31 March 2026 (beginning of Holy week)	Possible announcement	Holy week is w/c 30-Mar-26
30 April 2026	Consecration	

The Advisory Panel:

Suffragan bishop appointments are made by the Diocesan Bishop (and in this case in close consultation with Archbishop Stephen). All such appointments are supported by the valuable input of an advisory panel. It is important that we have a small panel which is representative of the diocese and reflects its diversity. Advice as to its shape and who should or should not be part of it is offered by the AAV.

ACTION: +Ruth, consults with the Dean, Archdeacons, Diocesan Secretary, Chairs of the Houses of Clergy, Laity and Trustees, to form an Advisory panel who will work with her to agree the submission to the Dioceses' Commission and advise on the appointment. A report will be made to the Diocesan Synod on October 11th.

+Ruth Worsley

Interim Bishop of Liverpool

For the Bishop's Council on September 17th 2025